

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 532

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Bette Flo Fincher on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those gifted educators, devoted homemakers, and exemplary citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Bette Flo (Morgan) Fincher will celebrate her eightieth birthday on September 26, 2009, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Henry Dawson Morgan (November 4, 1898-January 28, 1984) and Margaret Howard "Maggie" Morgan (October 29, 1900-October 29, 1996), Bette Flo Morgan was born September 26, 1929, in Cookeville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bette Flo Morgan's father was a businessman who dealt in produce, poultry, eggs, and furs, and her mother was a homemaker and a horse trainer who raised the 1949 World Champion Tennessee Walking Horse, Midnight Merry, who is one of the few mares to have won the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville; and

WHEREAS, some of Mrs. Fincher's favorite childhood memories involve playing with Shirley Temple paper dolls and roller skating in the ballroom of a vacant house near her home; riding horses; and breaking open geodes and playing "movie star" with the sparkling crystals; and

WHEREAS, she vividly remembers American troops coming through Middle Tennessee on their maneuvers during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Central High School in Cookeville in 1947, Mrs. Fincher attended Tennessee Technological University and graduated therefrom in 1950; and

WHEREAS, she then opted to continue her education at Peabody College, now part of Vanderbilt University, where she pursued her master's in education; and

WHEREAS, while studying at Peabody, Bette Flo Morgan met her future husband, Kaul Esmer Fincher, on a blind date set up by friends; and

WHEREAS, sparks flew and their courtship was accelerated by the Korean War, as Mr. Fincher, a decorated World War II combat veteran, was called back into military service; and

WHEREAS, just before he shipped out, Kaul Esmer Fincher and Bette Flo Morgan were joined in holy matrimony on November 9, 1950, in Cookeville, Tennessee, at her parent's home on Washington Avenue; the loving couple then honeymooned in Texas, where her husband was to report for duty; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fincher spent many anxious months at home waiting for word from her husband as he served on the front lines in Korea, all the while continuing her education at Peabody; and

WHEREAS, thankfully her husband returned safely home in late 1951, and both Mr. and Mrs. Fincher completed their master's degrees at Peabody; and

WHEREAS, after graduating, they both began teaching in the Putnam County school system; and

WHEREAS, an educator of exceptional ability, empathy, and integrity, Mrs. Fincher taught sixth grade at the Tech Training School on the campus of Tennessee Technological University for thirteen years, before retiring to care for her children and husband and keep the home fires burning warmly; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fincher has enjoyed several hobbies over the years, including sewing, smoking defiantly since age sixteen, and sharply criticizing Republicans from Alf Landon to George W. Bush, all of whom have been dead wrong in virtually all they have done in her estimation; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady is also a fount of information on Cookeville history and genealogy; and

WHEREAS, her many personal and professional achievements aside, Mrs. Fincher is most appreciative of the love, companionship, and support she receives from her handsome

husband of nearly sixty years, Kaul Esmer Fincher; their three treasured children, daughters Kaul Morgan (Fincher) Bluestone (born December 2, 1952) and Margaret Alice (Fincher) Kilgrow (February 8, 1954) and son, Representative Henry Dawson Fincher (April 3, 1969); and two generations of grandchildren, Britt Allen Kilgrow (born June 30, 1980) and Katherine Morgan Fincher (born June 16, 2000), both of whom she is especially fond; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Bette Flo Fincher, a beautiful lady in many respects, an excellent teacher, a dedicated homemaker, and a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, on the celebration of her eightieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.